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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)**  
**OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Uganda – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

July 5, 2007

*Note: The last situation report was dated September 15, 2006.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1986, prolonged conflict between the Government of Uganda (GOU) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has perpetuated a complex humanitarian situation in northern Uganda, marked by violent attacks against civilians, widespread displacement, and abduction of children for forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group in May 2007, nearly 1 million people, or 55 percent of an estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in December 2005, remain displaced in camps across northern Uganda. In April 2007, the GOU and LRA resumed peace negotiations, significantly improving security in northern Uganda and encouraging IDPs to move closer to home villages or areas of origin. As of May 2007, the IASC Working Group reported that more than 850,000 IDPs in conflict-affected northern Uganda had voluntarily left camps to resettle closer to or on their original lands.

On October 2, 2006, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Andrew G. Chritton reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is supporting water, sanitation, and hygiene; humanitarian coordination and information management; infrastructure rehabilitation; and agriculture and food security. USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$16 million to 22 partners since December 2005 to improve humanitarian conditions for conflict-affected populations and to help facilitate the resettlement process. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to provide assistance to facilitate the return process for displaced populations in northern Uganda, working to align and gradually transition humanitarian activities into development interventions.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs Remaining in Original Camps	987,974	IASC Working Group in Uganda – May 2007
IDPs in New Sites/In Transit	395,492	IASC Working Group in Uganda – May 2007
IDPs Returned to Villages of Origin	460,967	IASC Working Group in Uganda – May 2007
Refugees in Uganda	261,500 (209,000 Sudanese; 27,500 Congolese; 19,700 Rwandans; 4,400 other)	UNHCR – January 2007

### **FY 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda.....	\$4,210,224
USAID/FFP <sup>1</sup> Assistance to Uganda.....	\$43,140,000
State/PRM <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Uganda.....	\$7,049,937
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda.....</b>	<b>\$54,400,161</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Ongoing peace talks between the GOU and the LRA in Juba, Southern Sudan, and an extension of the August 2006 cessation of hostilities have enhanced the security situation for IDPs in northern Uganda. As a result of improved security and greater freedom of movement, more than 460,000 IDPs have returned to home villages as of May 2007, according to the IASC Working Group in Uganda. In addition, nearly 400,000 IDPs have voluntarily left camps to resettle in new sites or move closer to areas of origin. If peace negotiations make further progress, the Office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expects a significant increase of returning IDPs. Continued security improvements will facilitate the transition from relief to development assistance in northern Uganda.

As part of a monitoring team, USAID/OFDA Director Ky Luu traveled to sites in the Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts in northern Uganda to assess humanitarian conditions in early May. The monitoring team found that despite significant IDP movement out of camps, interagency efforts to promote early recovery activities

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

were delayed due to a lack of formal criteria defining what constitutes a returnee. While humanitarian conditions across northern Uganda vary and are generally improving, a significant number of IDPs continue to live in overcrowded camps and lack safe and sustainable access to clean water, health care, food, education, and shelter.

In February 2007, a USAID/OFDA assessment team, including an agriculture and food security technical advisor and a water, sanitation, and hygiene advisor, visited IDP camps and return sites in northern Uganda. The assessment team recommended sustainable water inventions such as hand dug wells and the protection of natural water sources, as well as strengthening food security through the provision of seeds and tools and the support of local seed systems.

### ***IDP Movement and Return***

According to the May 2007 USAID team, IDPs continue to leave large displacements camps as a result of improved security, the desire to access agricultural lands, and aspirations for a better life. USAID/OFDA will continue to facilitate the return process by supporting programs that increase access to clean water in areas of origin and improve livelihoods through agriculture.

Humanitarian organizations are also supporting the return process by working with GOU officials to grant greater freedom of movement outside IDP camps. To allow more IDPs to engage in agricultural activities that would improve food security and household incomes, the U.N. protection cluster, led by UNHCR, is advocating that GOU authorities ease restrictions of movement. If security conditions permit, freedom of movement will empower IDPs to voluntarily return to home villages.

On April 23, the Kitgum Disaster Management Committee declared several sub-counties safe for IDPs to return home. While district level officials have often delivered conflicting messages about freedom of movement, information dissemination is now beginning to be coordinated and jointly delivered over the radio, enabling IDPs to make informed decisions about the return home and conditions in return areas.

### ***Protection***

USAID/OFDA supports protection activities in northern Uganda to assist IDPs and other vulnerable populations in reducing or managing risks associated with violence, abuse, harassment, and exploitation. USAID efforts in northern Uganda incorporate protection by improving humanitarian conditions in IDP camps, monitoring protection problems, and observing voluntary returns.

Led by UNHCR, the U.N. protection cluster, comprising the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), is working towards a comprehensive protection strategy in northern Uganda. UNHCR has deployed a protection officer to Uganda to focus exclusively on IDP issues. As

of May 2007, the U.N. maintained a total of 25 protection and human rights personnel currently working on IDP issues in northern Uganda, with plans to deploy an additional 25 to 30 staff before January 2008.

### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

Water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions remain a critical challenge in northern Uganda, where inadequate or contaminated water sources have rendered residents of IDP camps susceptible to water- and sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhea. Water availability in areas of origin remains a significant factor influencing IDP returns to home villages.

In an effort to increase the availability of potable water to vulnerable households in Pader District, in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is supporting Food for the Hungry International (FHI) to provide sanitation facilities, capacity building, maintenance, and training programs. The FHI program is training 8,000 beneficiaries in basic hygiene practices and latrine maintenance, as well as constructing 800 latrines. In addition, FHI is constructing four new water systems and establishing and training four water management committees to operate and maintain the water systems. The programs will serve approximately 75,000 people.

### ***Food Security and Agriculture***

Long-term forced displacement and lack of access to land for cultivation have adversely affected food security in conflict-affected northern Uganda. However, security improvements have allowed IDPs to re-establish production and farming systems in areas of origin. IDPs embarking upon the return process are more able to access their original farmlands, resulting in greater food security and stimulating the early recovery process.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA funded the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to distribute seeds and farm tools to more than 60,000 families prior to the May 2007 planting season. In addition, USAID/OFDA is supporting FHI programs in Pader District to increase and diversify food production for more than 6,000 vulnerable households through the provision of seeds, tools, and training. Crop diversification allows households to generate income through cash crops. USAID/OFDA encourages programs that aim to increase access to agricultural inputs and improve farming technologies.

### ***Road Rehabilitation***

Road rehabilitation remains integral to facilitate IDPs' voluntary return to areas of origin. USAID/OFDA is sponsoring an emergency road rehabilitation project through UNHCR to support the return of IDPs in northern Uganda. The program helps IDPs access former homes and land, as well as increases access for Ugandan police to deploy to these areas to provide security to returnees.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA**

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$1,424,580
FHI	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$599,617
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Northern Uganda	\$1,300,000
UNHCR	Logistics	Gulu District	\$313,224
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Northern Uganda	\$199,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$373,803
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$4,210,224</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	62,170 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern and Eastern Uganda	\$43,140,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$43,140,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance/Protection	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
UNHCR	IDP Assistance/Protection	Northern Uganda	\$1,260,000
WFP	Immediate Food Pipeline Gaps for Refugees in Uganda	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
International Medical Corps	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Response (PEPFAR)	Kyenjojo District	\$294,953
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Response (PEPFAR)	Masindi and Yumbe Districts	\$375,000
IRC	Multi-sector Activities	Masindi and Yumbe Districts	\$999,984
InterAid	Urban Refugee Project	Kampala District	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$7,049,937</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$54,400,161</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 5, 2007.<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.


Ky Luu  
 Director  
 Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance